

would have been 8 years ago, when Fidel's failing health forced him to pass control to his brother Raul. Rather than leverage the transition in our favor, the Obama administration decided to start negotiations with Raul in the mistaken belief that he would prove more reasonable than his brother. It is an unfortunate pattern that this administration has repeated with Kim Jong Un, Hasan Ruhani, and Nicolas Maduro. They don't seem to learn the lesson about the brutality of tyrants. The administration lifted the embargo that had been exerting economic pressure and having real meaningful effect.

Efforts to be diplomatically polite about Fidel's death suggest the administration still hopes that Raul can be brought around. All historical evidence points to the opposite conclusion. Raul is not a different Castro. He is his brother's chosen successor, who has spent the last 8 years implementing his dynastic plan. Unlike Cuba, however, the United States has an actual democracy, and our recent election suggests there is significant resistance among the American people to the Obama administration's pattern of appeasement and weakness toward hostile dictators. We can, we should, and we are sending clear signals that the policy of weakness and appeasement is at an end.

Among other things, we should halt the dangerous "security cooperation" we have begun with the Castro regime, which extends to military exercises, counternarcotics efforts, communications, and navigation—all of which places our sensitive information in the hands of a hostile government that would not hesitate to share it with other enemies, from Iran to North Korea.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in calling for these alterations. The Communist dictator Raul Castro is not our friend, and we should not be sharing military secrets in military cooperation with his military only to have those used against us. A dictator is dead, but his dark, repressive legacy will not automatically follow him to the grave. Change can come to Cuba, but only if America learns from history and prevents Fidel's successor from playing the same old tricks.

It is very much my hope and belief that with a new President coming into office in January, President Trump and a new administration, that U.S. foreign policy—not just with Cuba but with our enemies, whether they be Iran, ISIS, or North Korea—will no longer be a policy of weakness and appeasement but instead will use U.S. strength to defend this Nation and press for change. This ought to be a moment where Cubans are dancing in the street because they are being liberated, but, instead, if anyone dances in the street right now, they will be thrown in jail.

Obama is sending his condolences to the Cuban people on the passing of a dictator who has imprisoned, tortured, and oppressed them for 60 years. Those

are condolences they can do without. Cuba is not a free society. You aren't allowed to speak or worship freely. They tear down churches. They repress the most basic liberty to worship God.

We need leadership to prompt real and meaningful change in Cuba. Valladares wrote in his memoir:

The mass execution was ordered by Raul Castro and attended by him personally. Nor was it an isolated instance; other officers in Castro's guerrilla forces shot ex-soldiers en masse without a trial, without any charges of any kind lodged against them, simply as an act of reprisal against the defeated army.

I have never been to my father's homeland. I have never been to Cuba. My father has not returned to Cuba in over 60 years. I look forward to one day visiting Cuba, hopefully with my dad, my Tia Sonia, my cousin Bibi, and seeing a free Cuba where people can live according to their beliefs without fear of imprisonment, violence, or oppression, but under the dictator Raul Castro, today is not that day.

The people of Cuba need to know that there are still those in America who understand that and stand with them, not the corrupt and vicious crime family that has oppressed them for so long, that has enriched themselves, accumulating millions and millions of dollars in personal wealth, living like emperors and kings while they have oppressed the people of Cuba.

Those in Hollywood, those in the academy, and those in the Obama administration think that communism is about equality. There is nothing equal about Cuban communism other than a quality of suffering, other than a quality of misery, other than a quality of hopelessness. In the Cuban Communist regime, the army acts as the enforcers for the dictators who live opulent lifestyles while oppressing the masses. There is a word for that. It is called evil. It is not simply an interesting way to govern a society. It is the face of oppression, the face of dictatorship, the face of evil. Let there be no mistake, Fidel Castro was evil. Anyone who systematically murders, tortures, and oppresses people for over six decades embodies it, and I have no doubt that right now, today, Fidel Castro is facing the ultimate judgment. That is cause for celebration, and I look forward to celebrating the end of his dictatorship and repressive regime and the return of freedom to Cuba.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DACA

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, our Nation's immigration system is

broken. There would be scant, if any, disagreement with that proposition in this Chamber. There would be no disagreement among anyone who is familiar with this broken immigration system. Far too often, that system is not only broken but violates the essential fundamental values and core convictions of the American people, values that are embodied in our Constitution, in the daily ethics we preach and live about fairness and welcoming people who are different from ourselves, people who have come here to escape persecution in their native lands, much as my father did in 1935 at the age of 17.

He came alone, he spoke virtually no English, had not much more than the shirt on his back, and knew virtually no one. That is the way people still come to this great country, the greatest country in the history of the world. The immigration system that enabled him to come here is now fraught with strictures and failings and irrational barriers that work against not only the interests of people seeking freedom and opportunity but our national interests. That interest is best served when we make possible the talent, gifts, and energy of immigrants. We are a nation of immigrants, and we should be working to reform the immigration system for our national interest.

No one exemplifies more poignantly and eloquently the flaws in our present system than young people known as the DREAMers. For a while, not that long ago, I resolved that I would come to the floor every week with a photograph of a different DREAMer from Connecticut who would demonstrate with a face, if not a voice, why some relief for our DREAMers is essential to our national interests.

DREAMers are members of our society, brought to this country as children, some before they even learned to speak, but now, for almost all of them, English is their native language. This Nation is the only home they have ever known. They pledge allegiance to the flag in school and at events with their hand over their hearts, just as we all do and just as we begin every day the proceedings of this Chamber. Many of them know and never take for granted the gifts of living in the greatest, freest, strongest nation ever to exist on the planet. They know it. They never take it for granted because they hear stories from their aunts and uncles, maybe even their parents about what life was like in the place they left when they were brought here as infants and small children.

So they go to our schools. They learn skills. They go to colleges, and many go on to higher education. They have skills and training and gifts and talents that would be extraordinarily useful and important. There is one problem: They are not citizens. They are not citizens. They are in constant danger of deportation. They are stuck in a potentially illegal and devastating situation because they have no path to

citizenship in a country that should welcome them and make it possible for them to come out of the shadows.

In recognition of those overwhelming merits, President Obama used his well-established Executive authority to institute the DACA Program. Understand that the DACA Program does not grant citizenship, it just defers and delays deportation proceedings. Countless young men and women came out of the shadows and made known their presence to the U.S. Government to become part of the DACA Program, disclosing their illegal status. They are now fearful. In fact, fearful is a clear understatement. They are terrified. I have met with many of them. I have known many of them over the years. I have come to admire and respect their patriotism, their aspirations, and their dreams.

As DREAMers, their dream is American citizenship, which all too often many of us take for granted. Their dream is American citizenship in the best sense of it—giving back to the country that they regard as their home, giving back by using those talents as nurses and doctors to help the sick, as engineers and scientists to build inventions and advance our knowledge, as entrepreneurs to build businesses and employ people and create jobs and drive the economy forward. In fact, immigration reform and these programs are thought to be job creators and sources of economic profit.

The DACA Program was a temporary effort, a respite for them in their striving to gain some permanency and some reliable status so they could be secure and feel safe in this country. Their terror now is well-founded, in fact, because the threat to them from the incoming administration is that they will be, in fact, deported en masse or perhaps their parents will be with them, and the American dream will become a fantasy—in fact, a nightmare.

We are talking about young men, one of them well known to me in Bridgeport, who was brought to Connecticut from Brazil at the age of 5. He studied in the Bridgeport public schools from kindergarten to high school, and then he went on to attend Fairfield University. He majored in chemistry, minored in mathematics. He excelled, so that during his senior year at Fairfield, he was accepted at the University of California, Berkeley's Physical Chemistry Program. But he had to live under the threat of deportation because he had no way to apply for lawful permanent status while he was continuing his studies here in America, potentially contributing greatly to the American quality of life.

There is the New Britain woman who was born in Mexico and brought to America when she was 6 years old. The journey for her was terrifying. She could not understand what was happening. She certainly had no idea that she was entering America in a way that would affect her the rest of her life at 6 years old. The idea that she

was here in an illegal status was incomprehensible. Her family settled in Connecticut. She began school immediately in New Britain, and she went through the public schools there and graduated from New Britain High School in 2008. She decided to attend college out of State at Bay Path College, earning a great many leadership positions there. She became the first in her family to graduate from college and then received a master's degree in occupational therapy. She has dreamed about helping people—maybe at non-profit—to make sure that families with low incomes have access to occupational therapy.

I think, too, of the young woman I know who was born in Venezuela. She was brought here when she was 11 years old. She remembers her mother telling her that she was going to America to learn English. Her mother also told her that she could be successful if she was bilingual and if she worked hard and studied. That is exactly what she did with her family when they settled in Norwalk, CT. She began to go to school right away. Life at the beginning was difficult. There was a lot to learn. By the time she was a junior in high school, she stopped trying to get perfect grades because she feared colleges would not accept her simply because she was undocumented, and even after she was accepted, she could not afford it, but she persevered. She attended community college, which was a huge financial burden. After Norwalk Community College, she went on to Western Connecticut State University. She persevered and she climbed those obstacles that many young American young people don't face, but she pursued a double major in accounting and finance. She hopes to become an accountant and pursue a career in business. But she has no pathway to citizenship or even lawful status. She fears that her dream will be unreachable.

That is why DACA is so important, why it should be extended, why we need to reform a broken immigration system that keeps the DREAMers and all of those 11 million people in the shadows without a path to earned citizenship, why we need to go back to the bipartisan reform proposal that passed overwhelmingly in this body with strong support on both sides of the aisle and then was denied a vote in the House of Representatives. That bipartisan effort needs to be resolved.

In the meantime, the DREAMers should be given lawful status so they can pursue their studies and their careers and give back to the greatest country in the history of the world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DONALD TRUMP'S FINANCIAL PLANS

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following statement by former Representative Barney Frank entitled "Trump's financial plans promise another Great Recession" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Boston Globe, Nov. 28, 2016]

TRUMP'S FINANCIAL PLANS PROMISE ANOTHER GREAT RECESSION

(By Barney Frank)

Apparently, one aspect of American greatness that Donald Trump seeks to recreate is the Great Recession of 2008. He calls for a complete repeal of all the rules that were adopted to govern the financial industry in response to that crisis, restoring to it the freedom to create unlimited debt throughout the economy, with no requirement that serious attention be given to the ability of the indebted to meet their obligations.

By the '90s, the business of lending had been transformed by securitization. Lenders sold the right to repayment of loans, eliminating their incentive to worry about the borrowers' solvency. The financial institutions that bought the loans then packaged them into securities and sold pieces of these throughout the economy. Other large institutions then sold insurance against the failure of these securities to pay. The use of derivative forms greatly magnified the amounts of money at stake.

When imprudently granted mortgage loans began to default, so did securities, leading to investor losses, and demands that the insurers make good on their pledges. Faced with a shutdown of the economy caused by the spreading inability of the indebted to repay, and the consequent refusal of anyone to advance funds to anyone else, the Bush administration bailed out multinational insurance company AIG, asked Congress for general bailout authority, and intensified the work that it had begun along with Congress to create rules to prevent a recurrence.

Modified by the Obama administration and Congress, these rules evolved into the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which was designed to prohibit abusive practices, and diminish the negative impact from the misjudgments that are inevitable in a system in which risk-taking is necessary.

Here are some of the most significant changes that will result if Trump succeeds in wiping the law off the books, with real-world reminders of the "great" financial system he would restore.

The abolition of the law's restrictions on granting mortgages to borrowers who are highly unlikely to repay means we will see successors to Countrywide, the mortgage-granting machine that gave us countrywide defaults.

The removal of the regulations governing trading in derivatives means Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan Chase, and others can return to the unrestricted dissemination throughout the economy of securities composed of bad mortgages, even when, in Goldman's case, the packager knew enough about the weakness of what it was selling to bet its own money that it would fail to pay off.

An end to the rule that participants in derivative trades either do so through exchanges or otherwise demonstrate that they have the funds to meet their obligations to their trading partners brings back the situation that prevailed when three of the five leading investment companies—Bear